



U.S. Department of Justice

***United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas***

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**FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY EMPLOYEE AND TAX PREPARER
INDICTED ON TAX CHARGES AND IDENTITY THEFT**

LITTLE ROCK – Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced that Sharon Meyers-Washington, age, 38, of Little Rock, Arkansas, was indicted by a federal grand jury today. Meyers-Washington, a former Case Intake Specialist with the Social Security Administration, Office of Disability, Adjudication and Review, was charged with 24 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, 34 counts of fraudulently using social security numbers, and one count of aggravated identity theft.

According to the indictment, Meyers-Washington also worked as a tax return preparer for Jackson Hewitt for tax years 2005 and 2006 and for JBL Rapid Refunds in 2007. The indictment alleges that Meyers-Washington prepared federal tax returns for others that contained fraudulent deductions that they were not entitled to claim. These false items included: fraudulent itemized deductions; false filing status; false dependents; fraudulent earned income credits; fraudulent child tax credits; false child care expenses; and false education credits. The tax loss to the United States from these false deductions totaled more than \$107,000.

Additionally, the indictment states that from January 2007 through or about June 2008, Meyers-Washington looked at and retrieved certain Social Security numbers which exceeded her authority. She then allegedly fraudulently used and disclosed these Social Security numbers as part of her tax fraud scheme. The indictment also claims that Meyers-Washington committed aggravated identity theft in the course of carrying out her scheme.

This investigation was conducted by Social Security Administration – OIG and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney George C. Vena will prosecute the case for the United States.

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Note: An indictment is a form of accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.